

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXII.]

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BIRTHS.

On 15th September, at Shanghai, the wife of GILLESPIE EDWARDS, China Navigation Co., of a son.

On 21st September, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. MILLIGAN, a son.

On 21st September, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. PHILLIPPO, a daughter.

On 22nd September, at Shanghai, the wife of Capt. F. BOYD, of a daughter (premature).

On 22nd September, at Shanghai, the wife of F. A. SAMPSON, of a son.

On 28th September, at Shanghai, the wife of H. J. WALLEN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 16th August, in Boston, PEHR MÖLLER, of Shanghai, to MABEL LYDIA BARNES.

On 23rd September, at Shanghai, FREDERICK STEPHEN RAMPLIN, to LOUIE ELISE, second daughter of Captain JAMES GRAY, Shanghai.

DEATH.

On 23rd September, at Shanghai, J. W. L. WALLACE, late 2nd officer of S.S. *Shengking*, China Navigation Co.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of September 8th arrived per the ss. *Coromandel* on Thursday, the 5th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Shanghai has decided upon having a public swimming bath.

Shanghai Cathedral now has a surpliced choir of boys.

The salt production in Japan for July this year is estimated at 47,370,000 *kin*.

A slight tremor of earthquake was felt at Hankow on Wednesday, the 13th instant, at about 1.30 p.m.

The Tokyo Chief of Police has been replaced by a provincial governor.

The Manila Municipality has had to request the church authorities to reduce the number of religious processions, which were disorganising the traffic too frequently.

According to the Vienna *Politische Correspondenz*, Chevalier de Kuczynski, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Rio de Janeiro, will be appointed Minister at Peking.

The British Court of Enquiry held on board H.M.S. *Andromeda* at Kobe into the *Baralong-Kinjo Maru* collision, found that no responsibility attached to the captain, officers, or pilot of the *Baralong*.

The *Cab'news* remarks:—"It is not in the Filipino's blood, this instinct for land, neither is it in his nature to work the land except from necessity. The "independent farmer" is very rare among the Filipinos."

About 350 coolies returned from South Africa by the *Catherine Park*, which vessel arrived in port last week. They will be quartered in the old Laichikok Camp until the vessel is ready to proceed on her voyage north.

On Oct. 2nd the local police authorities passed a large number of "undesirables" through their hands - 31 of whom had come from Saigon and 10 from the Straits Settlements. Their descriptions were taken and they were despatched to various coast towns.

People who sometimes indulge in sneers at the superstitions of the Chinese have something to ponder in the fact that England is agitated just now over the question of women entering church without head coverings. In several churches and cathedrals, unbonneted women have been refused admission.

The C.M.S. *Kungping*, which arrived at Shanghai on September 28 from Newchwang and Chefoo, reported: On the 20th instant destroyed two floating mines, and one on the 24th instant, with the Hotchkiss gun supplied by the Coast Inspector. All three mines were within a radius of fifteen miles of the Liaotishan Promontory.

According to a telegram published in the *Eastern Times* (*Shihpao*), their Excellencies Viceroy Chou Fu of Nanking, and Lu Yuan-ting, of Soochow, have received telegraphic instructions from the Throne to "confer together as to the best methods for purchasing the foreign portion of the capital in the Shanghai-Nanking Railway."

Mr. Oliver Bainbridge, who lately went into China to collect information about the Jews of China, writes from Kaifengfu, Honan, intimating that he has obtained photographs and other data of footprints "obliterated by the trampling of untold thousands." We regard this as a distinct achievement; and shall be glad to have full particulars when he returns to Hongkong.

The *Straits Times* publishes in full some correspondence relating to Mr. H. C. Brooke Johnson's expulsion from the Sarawak Club. It is admitted that the Club Committee had nothing against Mr. Johnson; but expelled him in order that the Raja of Sarawak, with whom Mr. Johnson is in litigation, might withdraw his threat to resign honorary membership. Under the circumstances, the *Straits Times* considers the action of the Sarawak clubmen un-English; and if the circumstances be throughout as represented, we quite agree.

According to Manila papers, the recent typhoon wrecked over fifty small vessels, including launches, coasting schooners, &c. The Manila Navigation Co. is said to have been the heaviest loser.

The Rangoon Port Trust intend raising a loan of 31½ lakhs of rupees this month. The money for the first time in the history of the Port is to be advertised for at 4 per cent. interest. Hitherto loans, either Port Trust or Municipal, have been at 4½ per cent. or higher rates. Rangoon banks still charge Madras rates varying from 8 to 14 per cent. for accommodation, or from 2 to 4 per cent. higher than Calcutta rates. Seeing the proximity of the two places it is remarkable that interest rates in Burma rule so high as they do.

Sunday November 26 is the day fixed for the next international walking competition at Shanghai. Sunday was chosen as the day most convenient to the majority. The primary object of the contest is to revive interest in walking as a sport, but the international aspect of the competition is of considerable importance. The competition is open to teams of four members of any one nationality who are duly registered at their respective consulates. Prizes will be given to the first ten competitors completing the course and, in addition, to the first, second, and third complete teams to arrive.

It is stated in Shanghai Mandarin Circles that the Board of Revenue has appropriated the sum of half a millions taels as the first instalment towards the capital of a Bank on modern foreign lines, to be styled the Hupu Yinhang, or Bank of the Board of Revenue. The Head Office of the Bank will, of course, be in Peking, and branches are to be established without delay in Shanghai and Tientsin. For the present, the new institution is only on trial, so that should the bank "take," more capital will be introduced; if not, the bank will be closed and wait for better times.

The *Nansangpao* says: Simultaneously with the loan from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of Tls. 3,000,000 for the first payment of the Canton-Hankow Railway we understand that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has raised another loan of Tls. 1,000,000 from the same bank for the purpose of establishing a public water service in Hankow. It appears that offers for this work had been made to prominent merchants, but such offers not having been accepted, on account of the difficulty of raising the requisite funds, the authorities have now to take over the work themselves. We learn that a British merchant proposes to contract for the erection of the works.

The following story is published in the *Korea Daily News* as coming from North-East Korea, where bears are reported to be numerous this year:—"Two prospectors, a Chinaman and a Korean, found traces of a bear that had been raiding a corn field near their camp. They prepared a bait by placing dynamite detonators in eggs and laying them about in the field frequented by the bear and concealed themselves near by. After a short wait the bear came down from the hills for his evening meal of green corn and finding the delicacy prepared for him at once proceeded to do justice to it with the result that one or more of the detonators exploded, blowing his jaws to pieces, after which he was easily dispatched with a firelock."

WEI-HAI-WEI VIGNETTES.

(Daily Press, 2nd October.)

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON, until May of last year acting as Assistant Colonial Secretary at Hongkong, is now at Wei hai-wei, where he replaced Mr. R. WALTER as Secretary to the Government and Magistrate. He seems to be the fortunate possessor of a seeing eye and a facile pen, to judge from interesting appendices he has written for Mr. Commissioner STEWART LOCKHART'S annual report, which has just arrived from His Majesty's printers in London. Dryness is never or very rarely a characteristic of official reports relating to China, where there is so much interesting material; but Mr. JOHNSTON'S description of his experiences of the hundred and fifty thousand Chinese among whom his work lies make literature. These provincials of his are "remarkably friendly, peaceful, and well disposed towards the British Government, as they would be" (he affirms) "toward any Government that treated them fairly." But like all Chinese, they are fond of litigation; and, unfortunately, it is difficult to convince them "that British justice is not a marketable commodity." This illustrates by ricochet the quality of Chinese justice. These people, accustomed to that kind for so long, are always offering bribes to the Magistrate's underlings, and it is "all but impossible" to make them believe that his decisions are not thereby influenced. Mr. JOHNSTON appears to have anticipated the idea of the Canton magistrate CHAN PAK HAU, with regard to precautions against "squeeze." He says:

"I found room for improvement in the judicial procedure then in vogue, and I have remodelled the system of receiving and dealing with 'petitions' in such a way that the opportunities for extortion on the part of my staff are now much curtailed. All petitions are brought to the Magistrate by the petitioners in person, and the Magistrate's house, as well as his Court, are open at all times to all persons who wish to make statements or to bring complaints."

This, while entailing much extra work, is the only way in which to make the Chinese realise that there are actually cases where justice, strict and untarnished, is the goal aimed at. This is a form of missionary enterprise calling for the highest commendation. The number and nature of criminal cases in this part of China were gratifyingly unimportant, the chief source of trouble being disputes as to the ownership of land. In one case a title-deed whose date corresponded to our year 1761 was put in. Many deeds, pedigrees, and other records were destroyed by the Japanese when they captured Wei-hai-wei in 1894; and Mr. JOHNSTON thinks that if there were a survey and a land court, much of the land would be found to belong to the Crown; but not enough, apparently, to recoup it for the heavy expenditure that would be involved. It would seem a shame to take any from present holders, merely because recent invaders had destroyed their proofs of ownership; and so it is just as well, maybe, that there is no intention of exacting the full legal rights of the Government. The crime is, as we said, very little crime; and there is no police force. The obvious conclusion is that the absence of a police force is responsible for a lack of criminal records; but Mr. JOHNSTON is careful to point out that this would be an erroneous criticism, as the victims of crime rarely fail to make complaint. The secret appears to be in the "modified patriarchal system under which the vast majority of the

people still live and die," and the absence of clan feuds. Mr. JOHNSTON writes:—

"The country is too poor to tempt immigrants, and lands seldom change hands except among relatives. Farms are often mortgaged, but nearly always subsequently redeemed. The villages are generally named after families that have lived in them for many centuries. Sun Chia T'an is the village of the Sun family; Ch'i Chia T'an is the village of the Ch'i family; and so on with most of the villages in the territory. Title-deeds, and tombstones all reveal the same tale, the landowners are everywhere the direct or collateral descendants of the people who tilled the same fields in the days of the Sung or the Ming dynasty. A curious result of this is the manner in which individuals identify themselves with their own ancestors. 'I bought this land and now the Liu family are trying to steal it from me,' complains a petitioner. 'When did you buy it?' remarks the magistrate. 'In the fourth year of Yung-Ch'eng,' says the petitioner, and sure enough his title-deed bears the date of 1727. Nearly every man has his few acres of arable land and his share in the common pasture land; every one is responsible to someone else for his correct behaviour, and all owe some obedience to the elders of his house or the village headman or *ts'un tung*. At present the villages of Wei-hai-wei are to a certain limited extent, so far as their domestic affairs are concerned, like so many little self-contained republics, each with its president or headman. Every individual is bound by rigid unwritten law to conform to the will of the *major et sanior pars* and to fulfil his duties to the community even if they involve his own discomfort. Recently I had to decide a case in which an individual was accused by his fellow-villagers of refusing to subscribe towards the engagement of a travelling theatrical company. He admitted that he was in the wrong, and promised to contribute his full share forthwith. There is thus a clear sense of mutual responsibility, and a general obligation to co-operate for common ends. There are many points in common between the mediaeval village communities and burghal associations of Europe and the present village communities of North China, but the analogy must not be pushed too far. The absence of the seigniorial or manorial system in China is alone sufficient to vitiate any such comparison."

The power of description betrayed in the foregoing extract should not be confined to the literature of the pigeon-hole. It becomes almost a duty for Mr. JOHNSTON to add to the bibliography of China, formidable as that has already grown. He has sympathy, also, which is necessary for such a work. His predecessor wrote disparagingly in 1902 of these village head-men: not so Mr. JOHNSTON. He shows their power and its effects, and decides that they are of great assistance to the Government. These head-men are a result of the natural evolution of village life in those parts; and as village life there may be pictured for us as almost ideal by this graphic official pen, we can accept the head-men with the rest. It is odd to read, apropos their possible removal, that one result would be a growth of individuality "which in rural China would still be dangerous and premature." Tolstoy would be doubtless fascinated by this "ignorant and illiterate" peasantry, whose lives are "generally peaceful, uneventful, and probably happy."—For legally, or not, they hold the land; and, as Mr. JOHNSTON says, in conclusion:

"They have the advantage of living in a healthy climate, and their splendid physique and the great age to which they often live prove that their normal condition is not one of ceaseless hardship and privation. For weeks at a stretch, at the sowing time and the two annual harvests, every adult and child is busy in the fields. In the long and bitterly cold winter nights they sit on their kangas, huddled together for the sake of warmth, while during the day they issue out of doors to collect fuel and

manure, or stand in their boundary-ditches to watch the ponies and hounds from Port Edward chasing the hare over their ancestral acres. Three times a week they wend their way with heavily laden mules to the Wei-hai-wei market, leaving the women at home to mend the clothes and commence quarrels that will end in law-suits."

BRITISH NAVAL BASES.

(Daily Press 3rd October.)

We have waited for some further explanation of REUTER'S telegram of the 25th September about the foundation of a new naval base at Singapore. That Admiral FISHER'S policy of centralisation of our naval armaments is, in principle and from a belligerent point of view, perfectly correct is not to be denied. An army or a navy scattered in small detachments over a large extent of territory loses in efficiency and power, and the nearer to the point of supply, other things being equal, such a base is situated, the greater is the advantage. Like the force of gravity, the efficiency becomes here actually in the inverse proportion of the square of the distance. What the carrying out of the scheme demands, however, in other particulars, is noteworthy. If the fleet of England were an indefinite quantity, the forming of any particular base could be undertaken without consideration for other localities; but of course the fleet of England, though the most numerous amongst the nations, has its limits, and strengthening one point implies necessarily weakening others. Halifax, Esquimaux, Trincomalee and Weihai are those named for abatement. Here, of course there is room for much difference of opinion. In the old days of wind-jammers, Halifax was, of course, for the Navy a most important base whence to look after the east coast of America. In these days of twenty-knot cruisers and innumerable submarine cables, it is as easy to watch the coast from Plymouth or Beerhaven. But why reduce Esquimaux? Esquimaux has innumerable advantages which Singapore can never hope to attain. One thing at least is important—it is within call of a military force, either from Canada or from the home country itself. It looks out over the Pacific in a way which Singapore cannot ever rival; it has a safe refuge in King George's Sound should a misfortune ever occur, and it has within itself the means of refitting, or even rebuilding a navy. Trincomalee is within reach any time of Aden or Bombay, so as a base it probably is only standing in the way of some more suitable gathering place. Of Weihai as a naval base there is not a word, except its salubrity, to recommend it. When taken possession of, it was a useful advance guard, but as a base, it is not only at the extreme limit of distance, so that instead of nursing the Fleet it would require to be nursed by it; but it has actually no military resources of any kind to fall back on. So much we unhesitatingly acknowledge. Yet in stating the other day that the abandonment of Weihai would be an act of criminal folly on the part of any Minister who recommended it, we by no means stultify our opinions. The importance of Weihai as an advanced station was very apparent two years ago. That it has for the present ceased to be obvious does not argue any alteration in the position of Weihai, but merely that in the present condition its military serviceableness has ended. Mainly, Weihai in English hands was intended as a counterpoise to Port Arthur in Russian hands; that contingency has departed, let us hope, in the interests of the world at large, for ever.

But England has never sought to pose as a military nation, nor does she desire to coerce her neighbours in any way; in fact, the more prosperous are her neighbours the better for her own interests. That, of course, is the true explanation of England's efforts in the cause of peace; and also the true cause of her having to be at all times prepared to second them by force of arms, if necessary. This is also the chief cause of the importance of Great Britain retaining her position in Weihai. Conceal it as they may under the cover of smooth generalities, there is no doubt that the partition of China is the ultimate hope of more than one Continental Power; the occupation by Great Britain of Weihai has acted hitherto as a salutary check on these designs; her abandonment of it as a thing of no moment would remove the curb, and unloose the demon of discord. This is felt and comprehended by everyone outside the immediate influence of the British Government itself; and we do not confine our remarks to any party in England, nor even to England herself, but include the entire world.

Now the abandonment of the project of making a naval base at Weihai, for it never was anything more than a project, by no means logically demands a retirement from the position, any more than the like abandonment of Halifax implies the yielding up of Nova Scotia to the first claimant. It has never been the practice of England, however it may have recommended itself to Continental Powers, to gird her possessions with fortifications. It may not be true that

"Britannia needs no bulwarks;

No towers along the steep;

but she has always acted as if she could more efficiently protect herself by concentrating her forces rather than by scattering them at every post needing defence. It might have been wiser policy on the part of Russia to have had no forts at Port Arthur, as recommended by General KUROPAKIN, than to have lost a campaign through defending them. Even though Weihai be the finest sanatorium in the world, in war time England cannot afford to intern her troops and sailors. But Weihai has other claims to our consideration besides being one of the best health resorts in the world. Commercially it is the key of the Gulf of Pechili, and the Gulf of Pechili commands the entire trade of North China, and not only this but the entire sea-borne trade of Manchuria and Mongolia. This, by the result of the late war, has fortunately been rescued from destruction. It is true that up to this Weihai has given no indication of its capacity for commerce, but that is little wonder when we consider the disabilities under which by the vacillating policy of the British Government it has laboured, and the insecurity of the tenure, which forbade the expenditure of any capital beyond the necessities of the day. Weihai, it is well to remember, faces the Pacific and it is in connection more especially with Pacific trade which does not pass Hong-kong that its future will rest. The once lone Pacific, never ploughed from year's end to year's end by a merchant keel, has now become the highway of the nations. There is well within the memory of many living residents in China the time when it was uncrossed by a steamer. Now the map is scored with the numerous lines of regular ocean steamers which within the last twenty years have commenced to ply profitably on its bosom. Here really is the future opportunity of Weihai. Are we, for a philosophic lad, for it is nothing more, to cast the opportunity to the dogs?

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL FUTURE.

(Daily Press, 4th October.)

Exchange showed one side of the disconcerting effect of the unexpected peace terms, and particularly the Yokohama quotation, which is now rapidly going back to its normal level. Evidently the public faith in the financial future of Japan has been too strong to suffer more than a momentary wavering. The views of critics on the spot are, however, likely to be of interest for some time to come; and just now these are characterised by a considerable variety. The *Japan Chronicle*, which alone among the foreign newspapers appears to have any real insight into financial matters in that country, devotes a leading article to an argument that the loss of the expected indemnity will stimulate, rather than retard, industrial progress. Japan's intention to consolidate the foreign debt with a view to reducing the annual interest payments is, of course, temporarily frustrated; but our contemporary adduces historical examples to show that that advantage—consolidation—would not come undiluted. The result upon trade and finance in Japan, after the receipt of the Chinese indemnity, was "by no means healthy." It encouraged wild speculation, the flotation of numerous "bubble" companies, "and the immediate result was overtrading and disorganisation of commercial and industrial finance." This is not based, as one might hastily conclude, on the erroneous assumption that the Chinese indemnity payment flooded Japan with a surplus currency. It was the news, the credit, of the indemnity, that inspired the reckless enterprises of 1895-6. In our contemporary's words: "The knowledge that Japan had brought a successful war to a conclusion by imposing an indemnity on the defeated country, combined with the elation which a successful war produces, undoubtedly did much to encourage reckless trading, so that a year or two after the war Japan had to undergo a financial crisis such as invariably follows over-production and speculation." This leads inevitably to the suggestion that, Japan having brought a successful war to an unsatisfactory, or at least disappointing conclusion, the tendency now will be all the other way, towards stagnation of enterprise, a forecast not accepted or entertained by our contemporary, although it admits that "for the time being business is checked and trade depressed." The *Jiji* appears to think that bad as things are now, the outlook is worse; and attaches pessimistic importance to the calculation that Japan will now and for some time to come have to pay away in interest every year the sum of 84,200,000 yen. The *Jiji* considers that if new bonds should be issued to replace those outstanding, and none be redeemed, the national credit must be affected; but this is not so certain as it appears. If the prognostication of the *Chronicle* be correct, that the indemnity disappointment (which it says was not the real disappointment of the settlement) will breed a wholesome caution, and nothing worse, then the *Jiji's* vision of dwindling revenue and swelling liabilities need not be seriously considered. It is a truism to say that commercial progress of a regular and continuous sort is better than "spells of feverish speculation followed by periods of corresponding depression." Unfortunately, it might as usefully be said that a constant depth of water on the sill would be better than high and low tides; or a perennial autumn better

than the alternating seasons. Trade is a little beast, affected by every rumour as readily as is the mercury in the tube. What is to the purpose now is to note that Japan and, incidentally, its investing friends are not to lose the benefits that should naturally accrue from the substitution of a lasting peace for a lengthy war. There has been no "panic," no violent fluctuations; and we have reasonable confidence in endorsing our contemporary's belief that "there will be a steady revival of trade." A national debt is not the unmixed evil that some old-fashioned testators appear to imagine; and Japan will stand in good company while her credit remains pledged. Japan's credit is not impaired by the peace terms; and her prospects are better than they were before the war.

CHINA'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

(Daily Press, 5th October.)

The race of prophets is not extinct. It has to-day representatives worthy and unworthy. Of the worthy kind, we must undoubtedly number the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD, who has just been telling a *Daily News* interviewer that in the year 1954 China will be "greater than Japan." "Within half a century" was the phrase used by the famous missionary, so that it will be seen we do not misrepresent him. It is usually held that any prophecy is safe unless a date be fixed: and in fixing a period for the fulfilment of his interesting forecast, we fear the Rev. T. RICHARD has erred. The picture of China as a coming Power has been held up to us before. We have grown used to the sight of it. But to hear from such a notable authority that in A. D. 1935 the Chinese will have "learnt all that Europeans can teach them," and that they will then "get rid of their teachers, as Japan has," is somewhat surprising. The statement that the Chinese will have learnt so much—"all that Europeans can teach them"—in so comparatively short a time implies more diligence and good-will on the part of the learners than we have been accustomed to give them credit for. It is commonly supposed that the feet of the European GAMALIEL have been at the service of the Chinese PAUL for rather more than thirty years already. Indeed, without speaking by the book, we fancy Dr. RICHARD has been casting pearls of wisdom for an equally lengthy term; and we should be sorry to learn that the Chinese have been trying to "get rid" of their teacher. If they have, we feel certain it is not on the ground that they have learned all that this scholarly member of the English Baptist Missionary Society could teach them. Gentle badinage abandoning, we fear that either the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD has been misreported, or that he has, in keeping with his prophetic vein, been seeing visions. He says that the holding together of so pre-eminently numerous a people for over two thousand years "means great powers of organisation." Having often heard from Dr. RICHARD's colleagues that the China of to-day is practically the China of those dim ages past, and believing that powers of organisation imply the faculty of instituting system, we are unable to follow the reverend gentleman's reasoning. This long holding together suggests to us rather great power for what the Americans call "staying put," which, being interpreted, means clinging to the *status quo*, to things as they are. But now, according to the prophet, "the Chinese are prepared to modify their laws and customs." To a certain extent we

accept this. We take it that such preparedness inspired certain promises; for example, the undertakings of the MACKAY Treaty. Were we disposed to emulate the boldness of the modern prophet, and to fix a date, we fear our temptation would be to name the Greek kalends. Reading further in this testimony in the *Daily News* (the curious will find it reprinted for them in yesterday's *Daily Press*) we seem to recognise an old friend. The "Yellow Peril" people have apparently converted the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD, who introduces to us the Yellow Peril as a widespread and well organised Asiatic conspiracy against the White Peril. "The people of Asia are sick of the White Peril. The arrogance of Europeans has become unbearable to them. China feels this more keenly than the other Asiatic nations. The Boxer rising was but an expression of that feeling." Can candour further go? We now learn from a missionary that the Boxer rising was entirely due to the unbearable arrogance of the Europeans against whom it was directed. It was chiefly directed, it may be remembered, at the colleagues and confrères of the reverend deponent. Was it that the Boxers even then had learned all that their teachers had to teach? This combination of Asiatic peoples, though: what of that? Dr. RICHARD says it is an Asiatic League, already ten years old. "Statesmen from Siam, India, and Persia, as well as from China, are influenced by the League, and visit Japan solely in connection with its objects. These are to resist the West with its own weapons, but with an Army far superior in numbers." This is distinctly thrilling. It is, moreover, definite. For ten years, just the period that our new Alliance is to run, Japan has been holding meetings of the conspirators who are to apply to the arrogant West the teachings of its own teachers. That Anglo-Japan Treaty may stave off the evil day for ten years; but even if it do not, there is a grain of comfort to be found in Dr. RICHARD's own testimony. All Asia is not so firmly knitted together as those mysterious assemblies in Japan would seem to indicate. China herself is the traitor in the camp. Although she feels European arrogance more than the other Asiatics do we read that "China does not intend to lie at the mercy of Japan. It is a mistake to suppose that Japan is going to do what she likes with China." Much is here implied. There is a suggestion of Japanese arrogance and possible encroachment; and that the armaments that China is storing, and the troops she is training (with Japanese officers, by-the-way) are not aimed solely to assist in the Asiatic League's grand kick at the White Peril. There is—and this, as Dr. RICHARD knows, is no new thing in China—an *arrière-pensée*, a determination to reserve one cartridge for her friend Japan, if necessary. That sort of thing is sufficient to satisfy most men that the Yellow Peril is not so yellow as it has been painted; and it satisfies us that, as we suggested in opening, the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD was unwise to put dates to his prophecies.

On September 21st, a general meeting of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha adopted a proposal to increase the company's capital by yen 6,500,000, for the purpose of building two steamers of 12,000 tons each for the service between Hongkong and San Francisco. The net profit for last half-year was declared at yen 235,587, including yen 20,899 brought over from last account. Of this sum, yen 16,000 was placed to the reserve, yen 195,000 was allotted for a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, and the balance of yen 24,587 carried forward to next account.

BAD CHINESE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(Daily Press 6th October.)

News of an unpleasant character with respect to the Chinese immigrants into South Africa has of late come to hand. It appears that there have been more than one attack upon isolated country homesteads in the Transvaal, made by bands of Chinese desperadoes, who have contrived to escape from the compounds in which they are supposed to be confined; and that in some instances they have perpetrated not only robberies but also murders. The matter has naturally exercised the authorities in the Transvaal considerably and no efforts had been spared to bring the perpetrators of the outrages to justice. The event is certainly very unexpected; and it forms a warning of the care that is required in dealing with Chinese even in the most ordinary way, when there is any opportunity of combined action on their part. The matter, as might be expected, has been seized upon by those who have all along been opposed to Chinese immigration to denounce the system as a whole, and to point once more to the iniquity of introducing the Asiatic labourer into the South African mines. These denunciations, it is needless to say, go far beyond what is really warranted by the occurrences; but, at the same time, it is impossible to ignore that the incidents draw attention, in a painful way, to a somewhat serious aspect of the matter which has, not altogether unnaturally, been overlooked. The idea of there being any serious danger of attacks of this kind by Chinese upon Europeans in a country governed by the latter might fairly be considered by those acquainted with Chinese habits and instincts as an unlikely contingency. The Chinese as a rule have a wholesome fear of coming within the reach of justice, and in any places where Europeans are in the ascendant, they are as a rule, little inclined to resort to violence against the foreigner. In the interior, where the Chinese are in overwhelming majority and where they have every hope that their authorities will be slow to punish them for attacking possibly some isolated mission station or some unprotected traveller, they are inclined to violence often, as we know by painful experience of a serious character. This is, of course, easily understood; but it is something new to find such action resorted to in a Colony under the British Government. A consideration, however, of the nature of the country will to some extent explain how such an idea may have entered the heads of some of the immigrants in the Transvaal. Up to the present day the farms in that country are separated by wide distances, many of them, indeed, being almost isolated, so that in the event of any attack made by numbers, it is impossible to obtain any effective assistance. This fact would be easily discovered by any rascals who might form part of the immigrants; and it would not take them long to perceive that the conditions of the country afforded marauders just the opportunity that the Chinese so much like, that of joining together to attack a few defenceless individuals far inferior in numbers. Some of the poorer small Dutch homesteads are, if taken unawares, entirely at the mercy of any attacking band, and the temptation seems to have been too much for some of the men who had got away from the compounds to which they were supposed to be confined. Naturally the question arises how it was that these men were able to absent themselves without being discovered. On the principle usual

in all such cases of shutting the stable door after the horses have been stolen, rigid investigation was made after the attacks upon the farmers as to the whereabouts of the Chinese supposed to be on the mines. The result of the enquiries was certainly not reassuring, it being found that some hundreds were missing. Why the precaution of duly "calling the rolls" was not resorted to before, it is difficult to surmise. It is useless to regret that so obvious a precaution was not taken; but at least it may be considered certain that it will not be overlooked in the future; and it may be hoped that this, combined with more vigilance, and also with the probable capture and punishment of the miscreants, may prove sufficient to put an end to the danger, which certainly appeared at first sight to be alarming. The number of men who have contrived to get away from the compounds seems to point to the fact that there must have been many rascals who have joined with the *bona fide* labourers with the distinct object of getting free of restraint at the first opportunity and entering upon a career of robbery and violence. No doubt these geniuses put their heads together on board the ships which brought them from China; and were thus able to combine at an early date after their arrival to carry out their schemes. Fortunately there are persons upon the spot well acquainted with Chinese ways, at the head of whom is Mr. JAMIESON, formerly of the Consular Service in China; and no doubt it will be found possible to devise means which will check attempts of this nature in the future; the chief of which, of course, will be ascertaining, by careful enquiry, who among the immigrants may be regarded as suspicious or dangerous characters. Meantime there is increasing vigilance both in the mines and among the police which, it is to be hoped, will have the effect of making further outrages of this nature sufficiently hazardous to put an end to their being attempted.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 3rd October at the Board Room. Hon. Dr. F. Clark (President) presided, and there were also present: Major Josling, Dr. W. W. Pearce, M.O.H., Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. H. W. Slade, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

DEFICIENT EXTERNAL AIR.

An application was made for a modification of the requirements of section 153 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903 in respect of Nos. 41 and 43 Hillier Street.

The M.O.H. reported that although the street was nearly 13 feet wide he could not recommend the granting of the application for the following reasons:—The houses were four-storey houses, and were opposed by four-storey houses across the street. The neighbourhood was a very congested one, and the houses were, as it were, in the bottom of a pit. The ground falls very rapidly down from Hollywood Road across Circular Pathway to Queen's Road, and therefore the houses in question were not well situated for efficient ventilation.

On account of this report the Board previously refused the application.

The further application forwarded by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects, in respect of these houses stated that to comply with the ordinance and obtain external air to these houses, it was necessary to set back the external walls for a distance of eight feet, a space so small that it was questionable if the houses would be at all impaired thereby as regards light and air. As an alternative to setting back the front walls a modification could be granted for the first and second floors; omitting

the ground floors, which the owner was prepared to close for living purposes.

The PRESIDENT—This, gentlemen, is an application for permission to count a lane 12 feet 4 inches wide as external air. The Medical Officer of Health still sees no reason to modify his previous report, and I move that this further application be refused.

The motion was seconded and carried.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The report of Mr. Frank Brown, Government Analyst, states that the water supplies contain fresh, pure water of excellent quality.

RAT RETURN.

For the week ending 23rd ultimo, a total of 607 rats was caught, of which 20 were infected. Out of 652 caught for the week ending 30th ultimo, 22 were infected.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 2nd October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHAN FU SHAN V. CHIU HOK LAM.

The plaintiff, a clerk residing at No. 3 Lower Mosque Terrace, claimed from the defendant, of No. 3, Old Bailey, gentleman, the sum of \$300, being money deposited with the defendant on the 13th February.

Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff.

The defendant, who was not represented, admitted the debt and His Lordship gave judgment and costs for the plaintiff.

F. G. PEREIRA V. E. B. SMITH.

This was a claim by the plaintiff, of H.M. Naval Yard, Kowloon, for the sum of \$50, money paid by the plaintiff on behalf of the defendant who is a shipwright at the Quarry Bay shipyard. Defendant did not appear, and plaintiff was put in the witness box.

His Lordship—What did you do: sign a promissory note with him?

Plaintiff—Yes.

His Lordship—Very well. Where is the promissory note?

Plaintiff produced it.

His Lordship—And you had to pay on this?

Plaintiff—Yes.

His Lordship—Well, you got your promissory note back. That is as good as a receipt. What are you claiming now?

Plaintiff—The money.

His Lordship—You told me something about losing your pay while you were here.

Plaintiff—Yes. I lose three shillings a day.

His Lordship—Well, you will get judgment and costs and three shillings extra.

Wednesday, 4th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

A QUESTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Wong Chik Yuen Tong alias Wong Ching Shi claimed from Leung Tsun Tung and Leung Hon Ching, partners in the Kung Sun firm, of No. 10 Wilmer Street, and lately carrying on business at No. 62 Bonham Strand, the sum of \$1,000, being principal of a sum of \$1,177.06 due by the defendants to the plaintiff for balance of money lent by the plaintiff to the Kung Sun firm on the 27th January, 1903.

The plaintiff agreed to waive the sum of \$177.06, being the excess of the said loan and interest over the sum of \$1,000, in order to bring the action within summary jurisdiction.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse (of the Crown Solicitor's office), represented the defendants.

Mr. Harding stated that the plaintiff was a widow residing at No. 23 Upper Iascar Row, and the sole proprietress of the business of the Fuk Shing Wo. The defendants carried on a business at the same address as the business of the Fuk Shing Wo, and were sued as partners of the Kung Sun firm. The claim was in respect of a loan of \$2,000 which had been made by the plaintiff to the Kung Sun firm on the 27th January, 1903. The defendants paid back

\$1,000 on the 5th April of last year, leaving a balance due of \$1,000 with interest. The plaintiff decided to forego the interest to bring the claim within summary jurisdiction.

His Lordship—Was the plaintiff the sole proprietress of the Fuk Shing Wo at the time of this loan?

Mr. Harding—Yes, my Lord.

Continuing, Mr. Harding said the Kung Sun firm removed to their present address (some seven or eight years ago, and with the Fuk Shing Wo firm kept the lower part of the said premises. The manager and employees of the Fuk Shing Wo firm had to pass through the office of the Kung Sun firm before they could get into the street, consequently they had ample opportunity of seeing how the business of the latter firm was being carried on, and who were the partners. The employees of the two firms had their meals together, and the plaintiff firm paid so much to the defendant firm for these meals. The manager of the Fuk Shing Wo firm would tell his Lordship that he had had many conversations with the partners of the Kung Sun firm, and consequently learned who were members of the defendant firm. Since 1901 the plaintiff had advanced several sums of money to the defendant firm, the total sum advanced being \$22,000, made up of amounts varying from \$2,000 to \$4,000 advanced at a time. These loans—eight in all—had been repaid shortly after the present loan had been made. About this time the Fuk Shing Wo firm removed to another address. The last loan had been advanced on the personal application of the second defendant, who saw the manager of the plaintiff firm on the subject, and the money was paid into his hands. With regard to the partnership question—

His Lordship—That is the point I suppose?

Mr. Harding—That is it, my Lord.

Mr. Harding here proceeded to read extracts from the books of the plaintiff firm to prove that the defendant's had received the loans advanced to the defendant firm as partners of the said firm.

Evidence in support of the plaintiff case was heard, after which Mr. Calthrop opened his defence. He said both defendants were prepared to say they never had been partners, and had never held themselves out or acted in any way as partners of the defendant firm, which had, unfortunately, come to grief. The only reason there was for suggesting that the second defendant was a partner, was that he acted as accountant for the firm. The first witness called had gone so far as to say that the second defendant said he was a partner, but this would be denied. Leung Hon Ching was never interested in the firm in any way whatever, except as an employee. He was originally in the employment of one of the partners of the firm as a tutor: this was in Canton, and eventually he was made accountant of the firm at Hong-kong. From 1902 to 1905 he had acted as accountant and correspondent. It was perfectly true he did write the receipt which plaintiff's solicitor produced, but did not put in, and counsel believed he applied for money for the defendant firm. It was part of his duty as accountant to carry out these transactions, and entirely his duty to put the firm's chop to certain documents. He may also have had at times to put his own name as well as the firm's chop to documents, but he never at any time held himself out as a partner of the firm, and there was no ground for suggesting that he was anything else than an employee. In the list of partners put in his name did not appear. With regard to the first defendant, Leung Tsun Tung, he was related undoubtedly to several of the members of the firm, and for many years had been assisting them. He assisted then by giving security on various notes which had been made by the firm, and if he had been a partner it would have been quite unnecessary for him to have signed his name to notes as guarantor. At the end of 1903 the manager of the firm unfortunately became insane; it became necessary that someone should be appointed to look after the business, and the first defendant was approached by the partners. At that time he had made himself liable by giving his guarantee for a very large amount for this firm, and having acted in this way as guarantor, and having a business of a similar nature in the neighbourhood, the partners thought it desirable that he should act as mana-

ger of this concern. At first he refused, but seeing how much he was interested in pulling the business through, and difficulties undoubtedly would have arisen through the insanity of the man acting as manager, he came forward and acted as manager. He was appointed manager by a document in court; had he been a partner it would have been quite unnecessary to draw up a document to verify his appointment as manager, as he was quite entitled to act without such. As to the suggestion that the defendant's was a rival business—

His Lordship—I am taking your own words about that.

Mr. Calthrop—Yes, my Lord, but I am informed that the business, although of a similar character, is not a rival business.

Continuing Mr. Calthrop said it was in the beginning of 1904 that the defendant took over the management of the defendant firm, but what he did as manager would not in any way make him responsible as a partner for the liabilities of the firm. He ceased to manage the business in August, and before these proceedings were instituted, without notice, it had never been suggested to the defendant that he was actually a partner, nor had he at any time put himself into such a position as to make himself liable as a partner.

The case was adjourned.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Tuesday, 3rd October.

BEFORE MR. BASIL H. TAYLOR (MARINE MAGISTRATE.)

NEGLECT OF DUTY.

Captain Fairley of the British steamer *Nithsdale* charged John Patterson and James Montague, able seamen of the said vessel, with continually and wilfully neglecting duty on the high seas since 6th September last.

Defendants pleaded not guilty.

Captain Ireland Fairley said the defendants went off duty on the 6th September, stating that they were sick. The ship was then at Rangoon, and he had them examined by a legally qualified doctor, who stated that nothing was wrong with them. He took them to the Shipping Master at Rangoon and wished to sign them off, but this the Shipping Master would not allow. He told the captain to take them before him and he would see what was wrong. Witness took Montague ashore, where he was examined by another medical man who also said there was nothing the matter with him. On the 20th ultimo, the day after leaving Rangoon, Patterson complained of the food, used insulting and impertinent language and defaced the chart. Since then both men had generally neglected their work. On the 24th ultimo both men went on the bridge in a very mutinous manner and used threats.

The captain here produced his log, in which, under date of 29th September, he had made the following entry:—These two men continue their policy of doing as little work as possible; they do about half-an-hour's work in their four hour's watch.

Seaman Montague—Did we not do our work properly on board the ship?

Witness—No.

Patterson said he did not neglect his duty. He was not fit to do it through rheumatism brought about by want of awnings.

Montague said he was unfit for duty on account of the hardships he had to bear. It was impossible to sleep in the fore-cabin where he was berthed, as it was too hot. There were not awnings up, and when it rained he got wet through.

Charles Davis, chief officer of the *Nithsdale*, did not consider that defendants performed their duties in a proper and seaman-like manner; he was of opinion that they were guilty of neglect of duty generally.

Questioned by the captain, witness said that when all hands were trimming coal in the bunkers, the defendant, Patterson, did not do his work in a proper manner. Montague was at the wheel at that time.

To Patterson—You were in the bunker part of the time.

Seaman Montague—Can you state some specific case of my neglect of duty?

Witness—You took one hour and fifty minutes to paint fifteen feet of steam pipe cover, whereas you should not have exceeded twenty minutes.

Seamen Brotten and Everling, who were called for the defence, stated that defendants did their work properly.

His Worship thought otherwise. He considered the charge proved, and that defendants' conduct had amounted to wilful neglect of duty. He sentenced each defendant to four weeks' imprisonment with hard labour, and ordered that each forfeit twelve days' pay. Should the *Nithsdale* be in port when defendants are released, they would will be placed on board again.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

REBELLION QUELLED.

Sept. 30.

It is reported that the rebels in Tsang Shing and Loong-Moon districts have been dispersed. Commodore Li Mung Shuet returned to Canton on the 27th.

NEW MINISTER TO BELGIUM.

It is reported that Li Sing To has been appointed to represent China at the Belgian Court, Chow Fung Sang's appointment to the post having been cancelled on the 28th inst.

"THE MACAO CRABS."

The seismic disturbances which have been felt of late at Hongkong, Canton and Macao, have given rise to more than the usual myths. The famous dragon whose privilege it has been to give an occasional shock to the earth's crust is not held responsible for the recent scare in Macao and elsewhere. Some Chinese attribute the last shocks to the water-dragon of Canton whose anger has been raised by the reclamation works. Coolies are dumping daily boat-loads of sand and stone on the poor dragon's back, and the beast naturally feels hurt.

It appears, however, that the real causes of the earthquakes were the Macao Crabs! Here is the story: Close by the hot-springs in the neighbourhood of Macao stands a small village wherein lives an old woman who has the misfortune to be the mother of an unworthy young man whose sole occupation is fishing. A few days previous to the first earthquake shock experienced in Macao the young man returned home with a couple of crabs and a few small fish. Nothing extraordinary was noticed at first, but when the crabs had been boiled one of them presented a peculiar appearance, as on the red background of its shell stood in bold relief a design in white which resembled a Chinese character. Neighbours were called and the wise man of the village soon explained that it was the King of the Crabs that had found its way into the old woman's kettle. The village prophet thereupon predicted that some great calamity would visit the unfortunate village. Meanwhile the crabs of Macao and neighbourhood having learnt the fate of their King, assembled in great numbers, filling up every available hole, and started to shake the earth. Thus was their displeasure at the death of the King Crab clearly shown!

REMOVAL OF YAMEN PAPERS AND TREASURE.

Some time ago Viceroy Shum received an imperial order to abolish the Grain Tax Yamen. The order was carried out yesterday. This department has ceased to transact business and all the official documents, papers, seal and treasure were removed to the Provincial Treasurer's Yamen under the surveillance of a police official.

A MODERN MILITARY DEMONSTRATION.

At about 10 a.m. to-day, residents on the Shameen could witness a grand procession of about a thousand military scholars from the various official colleges, marching gaily along the Shameen Canal Street, the Sha-k'e-tai-kai. As usual there was a grand display of banners and flags bearing various mottoes. The boys were all dressed in khaki uniforms and wore white caps. Each section was accompanied by its officials (Japanese military officers and instructors). Crowds of coolies and onlookers

thronged the road on both sides to witness the procession of these juvenile warriors.

MILITARY B. A. IN TROUBLE.

Recently, Viceroy Shum gave instructions to the Magistrates of all the districts under his jurisdiction, to enquire into and report on the conduct of the gentry in their respective districts, and to find out if any of them are harbouring bandits or other evil-doers.

The Wo Ping Magistrate has brought the following facts to the notice of the Viceroy: A military Bachelor, Chui Chew-kue, is inciting the people of his district to join the Triad Society and has joined the Bandit-chief Ip Ching-shan, who has selected Ting-Nam as his headquarters for the purpose of creating a rebellion. Chui will no doubt be severely dealt with if arrested.

Canton, 1st October.

A BIG ROBBERY.

At seven o'clock on the evening of the 24th ultimo a band of over one hundred robbers raided the Pak Kan village in the Shun-tak district. The robbers were well armed and experienced no difficulty in terrorising the unfortunate inhabitants. After ransacking over fifty houses, they left in the early hours of the morning carrying away with them booty valued at over thirty thousand taels; mostly jewellery and silk. The Shun-tak magistrate has reported the matter to the Viceroy, and a large number of braves have been despatched to capture these daring desperadoes. Shun-tak, being a rich district, is overrun by these bandits, who appear to be particularly active just now. So far no arrests have been made.

CHANGE OF CITY GUARDS.

Hitherto the old walled city has always been guarded by the Governor's soldiers; but they have just been disbanded and are being replaced by Viceroy Shum's own braves.

CHINESE MINISTER FOR HOLLAND.

In order to promote trade between Holland and China, the Dutch Government has recently asked the Imperial Government to send a representative to their country. Hitherto the administration of all affairs connected with Holland was entrusted to the Chinese minister at St. Petersburg. The Wai-Wu-Pu has accordingly decided to open a Chinese Legation at Amsterdam and the necessary funds are being raised for the maintenance of a permanent minister there.

NEW MINISTER TO AUSTRIA.

Minister Yang, a brother of Yang Taotai, the able Chinese Minister at Tokyo, having been transferred to another important post, Li Ching Mei, seventh son of the late Li Hung Chang, has been appointed to take his place at the Austrian Court. Li Ching Mei is a comparatively young man. He is a thorough Chinese scholar and speaks fluently both French and English.

KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY.

It is reported that Mr. James Scott, H.B.M.'s Consul General at this port, has lately been pressing Viceroy Shum in respect of the building of the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

This question has been very much to the fore of late. The firm stand taken by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, Governor of Hongkong, and the energetic steps taken by Consul General Scott here, lead us to hope that the construction of this important line will be commenced at an early date. Meanwhile despatches are being exchanged on the matter.

The following is a translation of a dispatch recently sent by Viceroy Shum to His Excellency Cheong Pat Shi, minister of railways and mines in China:

"With reference to the important subject of the building of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, which the British people decided to undertake a few years ago. A draft agreement was drawn up between Sheng Sheun Wai, Minister of Railways and chief director of the railway company, and the British firm of Yee-wo (Jardine Matheson & Co.) in the 25th year of Kwang Hsu. The British people are now urging us to commence the building of this line. They desire us to raise a loan and join them in the construction of the line. I have repeatedly telegraphed to the Wai-wu-pu and also to Sheung Sheun Wai, requesting them to devise means to prevent this important railway line falling entirely into the hands of foreigners. It is absolutely necessary that the funds required for construc-

tion work should be raised by the Chinese themselves, in order to secure the right of control on the railway. Many telegrams have been exchanged between us on this matter. A demarcation of the boundary line of the British concession in Kowloon has already been decided upon and the British people will only build that section of the line which runs through their land. The other section which runs from the Kowloon boundary to Canton must be built with funds raised in the Kwangtung Province. When both parties have completed their respective lines they will be linked together. I have received a telegram from the Wai-wu-pu, stating that they have communicated the matter to Sheng Sheun Wai and that he has been requested to discuss the matter in earnest with the British Minister in Peking. The telegram also authorizes me to hold firmly to the view I have taken in this matter and to enter minutely into the details of the affair with the British Consul. From enquiries made I have discovered that the Kowloon-Canton railway is a very important undertaking and no matter how the line is to be constructed, the funds required for its construction must be raised by ourselves so that we may not lose our right of control. The distance from Canton to the Kowloon boundary is about one hundred and ten English miles. The money required for land purchases and construction work will amount to a huge sum. Unfortunately the provincial coffer is far from overflowing and it is almost impossible for the Government to find the enormous sum necessary. We shall be compelled to call upon the gentry and merchants for assistance in the matter by requesting them to float a company for the carrying out of the scheme and thus save appearances. The high reputation which Your Excellency has always held leads the gentry and merchants of the Kwangtung Province to look to you for assistance. You have orders, moreover, to superintend railway and mining matters in Fokien and Kwangtung, and the task of forming a company is an easier matter for you on account of your high position and great power. I have, therefore, communicated this matter to you that you may enquire into the details of this affair, find out the cost of the work and devise means for the formation of a company to raise the funds necessary to carry the scheme through successfully and to report same to me."

1st October.

PO-WAI-YING.

It is reported that Colonel Yeong Chik Shang has paid \$50,000 to the Sin-Hau-Kuk in part payment of the revenues which it is alleged had been misappropriated by Colonel Yeong from the Po-wai-ying's funds. It will be remembered that a special deputy was instructed some time ago to investigate the matter.

NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

I mentioned in a previous letter that Chau Sin Pui and Li Cham Yeong, Taotais, president and vice-president of the Cheong-Ping-Hok-Tong of Canton, had received instructions from Viceroy Shum to proceed north to review the Grand Naval Manoeuvres of the Pei-Yang squadron in the 10th Moon. Viceroy Shum has now received a telegram saying that the Naval Manoeuvres have been postponed to an indefinite date. The belief is held in official circles that the postponement is due to the recent dastardly bomb outrage in Peking. The officials up north are probably afraid that evil-doers will avail themselves of the opportunity, that a big gathering always affords, to commit another outrage.

EXECUTION.

Wu A Ping, a pirate chief who was recently captured by the local braves, ended his mischievous career on the Potter's ground yesterday.

HOPPO'S TREASURER IN TROUBLE.

Since Viceroy Shum has taken over the duties of superintendent of the native customs (Hoppon) he has been pressing the last official who held that post here to settle all the accounts and hand over to him all the records and documents connected with the yamen's business. I referred some time ago to a deficit discovered when the post was abolished. It is reported now that a further deficit of over a million taels has been discovered in the treasury

accounts, thus making an aggregate deficit of nearly two million taels.

A KIDNAPPING CASE.

A woman named Lo Li-shi kidnapped a boy named Leong A-wah in Wuchow and took the lad to Canton to sell. While walking along the Sha-ki-ta-kai street, close by the offices of the Imperial Maritime Customs, the couple unexpectedly met the lad's father, Leong Ah-shing. The latter, recognising his son, immediately gave the alarm. A big crowd assembled and completely surrounded the trio pending explanations. The Shameen Guard turned out and, after exchanging a few words with the lucky father, arrested the woman, who was immediately taken to the Nam-hoi magistracy, followed by the father and son.

THE RICE CROP.

The second crop promises to be a good one, rain having been plentiful. The fields are now in good condition. The seventh and eighth moons have had their average rainfall and as the Chinese farmer holds that rain in the seventh moon is golden and that in the eighth silver, the "joss" is good.

2nd October.

THE CHUNG YANG FESTIVAL.

Saturday next the 9th day of the 9th Moon is the Chung Yang Festival. Great crowds of Chinese visit all the high monuments in town or go to the neighbouring mountains, as it is believed that good fortune is in store for those who get nearest to the heavens on that auspicious day. The five story pagoda and the hill on which stands the temple of the Goddess of Mercy are the favourite spots for those unable to leave town or too weak to climb the White Cloud Mountains.

A CURIOUS CUSTOM.

During the 8th and 9th Moons the different districts of Canton celebrate the feast of the God of Fire. The streets are lavishly decorated with lanterns, flowers and huge chandeliers which are brilliantly illuminated at night. A small theatre is erected in one of the shops which has to be demolished for that purpose. Every year a different shop is selected by lot and the district corporation pays the cost of refitting the shop after the celebrations are over.

VICEROY SHUM.

Viceroy Shum's health is now completely restored and although His Excellency is still on sick leave, he personally attends to all important matters.

3rd October.

JAPANESE IN KWANGTUNG.

Whereas two or three years ago but a few Japanese were to be found in this province there has since been a steady increase in their number. It was natural to expect that this rich southern emporium of China would sooner or later become a centre of Japanese activity. Signs are not wanting either, that the islanders have not been idle of late. The military colleges are entirely under Japanese management; over 20 instructors, all picked officers from the Japanese army, have been engaged within the last twelve months and are fast reorganising the southern army. The naval college at Whangpoa is also under Japanese supervision and a staff of Japanese teachers are instructing the numerous scholars who attend that institution. The telephone exchange is in Japanese hands, and a Japanese adviser was attached for some time to the local Board of Education. Things Japanese are to be seen in every street. The war between Russia and Japan and the prestige gained by the victorious Japan has given an impetus to trade and created a demand for Japanese articles hitherto unknown on the market. The adoption of a semi-foreign uniform by the military cadets has created a demand for caps (made in Japan of course) and a new word has been added thereby to the Chinese vocabulary, the word Ki-pu. Lads and men who have no connection whatever with the military institutions are to be seen in the streets wearing this western head-gear supplemented generally by a pair of foreign shoes. It is curious to note that after so many years of constant intercourse with foreigners the adoption of these western forms of coiffure, etc., should be introduced through Japanese influence. Japanese Cinematographs and Dioramas are exhibiting war pictures calculated to rouse

patriotism in the breasts of their Chinese patrons. Chinese booksellers' stalls are overflowing with Japanese books and pamphlets. An active propaganda of Japanese influence is made in all quarters of the town, and if the same activity is displayed in all the important centres of China, the Japanisation of this huge empire will at no distant date be a *fait accompli*.

CABINET MINISTERS.

Local authorities received private letters from Peking saying that two of the present Ministers of the Cabinet, viz: Wong Man Shui and Luk Cheung Lum are about to resign their posts on account of their opinions clashing with those of their colleagues. Most of the officials at the Capital recommend Viceroy Yuan Shih Kai, Shum Chun Sheun and Sik Liang to fill up the vacancies should they occur. According to general opinion Viceroy Yuan Shih Kai and Sik Liang will not be able to leave their posts, the former being at the head of the Pei-Yang army and the latter having the rebellion in the Sze-Chuen district to suppress. Most of the officials favour Viceroy Shum's appointment to the post as his hands are practically free now that the rebellion in Kwang-si has been quelled.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

2nd October.

THE ROYAL BIRTHDAY.

The event passed off without much display on the 28th ultimo. At 9.30 in the morning there was the *Te Deum* in the Cathedral, and at 10.30 H. E. the Governor held a reception at the Government House which was attended by all the officials and public servants, the consuls, and the commander and officers of the British torpedo boat destroyer *Janus*. Mr. Ponsonby, the private secretary of Sir Matthew Nathan, came over especially to congratulate our Governor on behalf of your Governor. A guard of honour was posted in front of the Government House during the reception. At noon a royal salute was fired from the Monte Fort, and at 4 o'clock H. E. the Governor gave a garden party at Flora, which lasted till late. Though the weather was unfavourable, tennis was indulged in by a few ladies and gentlemen. They had to give it up after a few games as rain began to fall in torrents.

THE FANCY FAIR.

The Fancy Fair of last Saturday and Sunday was not so successful as it deserved, the influx of patrons was not great, and a good many of the prizes were still on the stands at the time of the closing of the bazaar. The unfavourable weather was partly responsible for the non-success of the fair. I hear also that the object, for which the bazaar was promoted did not meet with the approval of a good many of the Macao residents, so that this also would account to a certain extent for its non-success.

THE EARTHQUAKE AGAIN.

Another shock of earthquake was felt here at a quarter past twelve on Monday morning, but I have not heard of any damage done.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT.

On Saturday morning Mr. Fermio Machado Mendonca died after having been ill for some time. The deceased gentleman was employed by the Opium farmer, and was well-known and respected by many of his own countrymen and the Chinese. Mr. Machado was a member of the Leal Senado and of the Board of Directors of the Santa Casa de Misericordia. He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son to mourn his death.

DR. GOMES DA SILVA.

Dr. Gomes da Silva, our Colonial surgeon, is very ill.

An Italian seaman, whose ship had been captured by the Japanese during the war and who had been detained in that country till May, was brought up on the charge of being a vagrant. "No work, no money, no nothing" was his plaint, and he was committed to the House of Detention, pending the time when he would be sent home by the Italian Consul.

DES VOEUX ROAD FIRE INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on the 3rd October Mr. F. A. Hazeland resumed the inquiry into the circumstances of the recent fire in Des Voeux Road when the Cheong Lee furniture store was practically destroyed. Mr. H. W. Looker attended in the interests of the Fire Insurance Companies, and Mr. R. A. Harding watched the proceedings on behalf of the owner of the premises.

The manager of the Cheong Lee furniture shop was the next witness called. He stated he had no idea what caused the fire. The premises were well stocked.

Under examination by Mr. Looker—He kept the sales book but the other books were kept by the firm. The accountant kept some, but he did not where he was. Witness subsequently admitted that he knew where the accountant was. Witness was subjected to a searching examination as to the method of keeping accounts which obtained in the firm, and was questioned as to his estimates of the goods destroyed by the fire. Although ten to twenty foks usually slept on the premises, only the master and himself slept on the premises the night before the fire. Most of the foks had fled through fear of the plague or had succumbed to that disease. He had not a share in the business and when he went to increase the insurance by \$5,000 a month ago he did not tell the representative of the Insurance Company that he had a share in the business or that he was the master. At this stage an objection was taken to communication passing between Mr. Harding and a witness outside.

His Worship—I can't allow solicitors' clerks to go out during the case to speak to witnesses. Mr. Looker—It is a most opprobrious practice.

Inspector Warnock—It is a witness who has been asked for.

Mr. Harding—No, it is the master.

His Worship—The witness has a right to be in court.

The examination of witness was then resumed.

The inquiry was again adjourned.

The inquiry into the circumstances of the recent fire at the Cheong Lee furniture store was resumed on the 5th October before Mr. F. A. Hazeland. Mr. H. W. Looker appeared for the Fire Insurance Companies interested, and Mr. Beavis watched the interests of the owner of the shop.

The master, recalled, stated that on the first and second floors of both houses were stored the furniture, and that on the second floor the men were engaged making pieces of furniture. Some of the men slept there and some on the verandah. Some of the workmen used to sleep on the floor of No. 31 before they ran away. The second floor was as full of furniture as the first. He paid the foks their wages before they ran away. He attempted to persuade them to stay, but they would not stay. He could not remember whether any wages were owing to the foks before they ran away. Witness was told to look at the books. Most of the foks who ran away had overdrawn their wages. There was some electric plate on the first floor, certainly not more than ten pieces.

Mr. Looker—How is it, when you have such a hazy idea of what the premises contained, you are so definite as to the amount of damage?

Witness—It is only approximate.

Mr. Looker—You say the damage amounted to \$20,000 and when we ask for details you cannot furnish them.

Witness—I cannot remember every article.

Mr. Looker—You are not asked to.

Witness added that the value of the goods damaged on the first floor was over \$1,000 and on the second floor was between \$2,000 and \$3,000. The goods on the ground floors were samples. Both floors were fully stocked. He could have placed more there but the appearance would not have been improved. The samples were all finished articles, every one being ready for sale.

Mr. Looker—I put it to you that the bulk of furniture of this description on the ground floors was in a very unfinished condition and the larger portion of it unvarnished and unpolished and in the rough?

Witness—I cannot remember. No.
That is not a fact?—No.
You are quite clear about that?—Yes.
Do you go so far as to say it is quite untrue?
—I believe the bulk was ready.
I am not asking you that. Do you go so far as to say it is untrue that the bulk of the furniture was in an unfinished condition?—It is untrue.

None of the goods on the ground floor were destroyed by fire?—They were covered up. I don't know.

You have seen the ground floor since the fire?—Two days afterwards.

There are a large number of things no more covered up than this table?—I just took a glance at them.

At least half on the ground floor is not covered up by debris?—Yes.

Nor are they in any way burnt?—I don't know.

Did you notice the pictures were still hanging on the walls of the ground floor unburnt?—They were broken.

Turning to your escape. Which pipe did you get down?—The place where water is put through.

Where did you land?—In the lane at the back.

Did you scorch your face by rubbing it against the pipe?—No.

How?—I do not know how?

By Mr. Beavis—He had inside the shop a notice board requesting customers to go upstairs to see the furniture.

Cheong Shan Ping, an accountant, employed by Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co. Kowloon, said he had gone through the books of the firm to ascertain what according to them was the value of the stock at the time of the fire. He had considerable experience in that kind of work. If the books were correct the value of the stock at the time of the fire was \$48,000 odd dollars. According to the books the value of the silver gilt ware was \$1,293, and the blackwood \$4,427. The books were properly kept, and he could tell from them the dates when the goods were received. He had seen a valuation of the stock in the books and, compared with the goods in other shops, the valuation was higher. For instance the valuation in the books was \$75 for a certain article but in other shops it was only \$6. He made inquiries at other shops and the difference in price applied to other goods in the shop. He could not tell definitely from the books what stock had been delivered in and what had been sent out since the Chinese New Year, because there were no dates at all in the arrival book.

The inquiry was adjourned.

SAILOR'S MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

A curious occurrence was reported to the police on Oct. 3. Their informant was a seaman belonging to a ship lying in the harbour off West Point, who stated that another sailor from the same ship and he had come ashore on Monday night. About one o'clock the following morning they went along the Praya looking for a sampan to take them off to their ship. They sat down on the Praya wall to wait and after remaining there for some time the seaman's comrade, without warning, leaped into the water. He searched for some time but, failing to find his companion, and concluding that he was drowned, he reported the matter to the police. Further search has not resulted in the body being found, and the police are inclined to look with suspicion on the story as told them.

BODY FOUND IN THE HARBOUR.

The body of the sailor, who was reported by a comrade to have thrown himself into the harbour early on the 4th October while they were waiting for a sampan to take them off to their ship, was found on Wednesday night off Pottinger Street steps. His name was Victor Brotten, and he was a seaman on the *Nithsdale*.

An inquiry into the circumstances of his death was conducted yesterday afternoon by Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy.

P. C. Lanigan said that on the 4th inst. at 6.40 p.m. he found floating in the harbour the

body of a man opposite Bank Wharf. He took it to the mortuary, where it was identified by J. Montagu and J. Paterson as that of Victor Brotten.

Inspector Langley said that about 2 a.m. on the 3rd inst. a report was made to the Central Police Station by one Charles Eveling of the *Nithsdale* to the effect that at 1.30 a.m. on the 3rd inst. while he and his shipmate named Brotten were sitting on the Praya Wall near Pottinger Street Wharf waiting for a sampan to take them on board their ship Brotten suddenly jumped into the harbour, and he did not see the body come to the surface. Witness also produced a letter from the captain of the vessel to the Harbour Master reporting that Brotten had deserted his ship. The letter was dated 3rd inst.

John Paterson, seaman on board the *Nithsdale*, gave evidence of identification. The deceased, Victor Brotten, was an able seaman on the same ship.

The inquiry was adjourned for the attendance of the doctor.

EXCITING AFFAIR IN THE HARBOUR.

COOLIE SHOT BY A POLICEMAN.

A sensational affair, fraught with fatal consequences to a coolie, took place in the harbour early on the 1st October. About 5 o'clock a.m. as Lukong No. 457 was patrolling in the police pinnace near Wanchai he noticed several coal boats proceeding in a rather suspicious manner. On his giving chase, the boats attempted to get away, but he came up with one and boarded it. He discovered a quantity of what was apparently stolen coal, but he was not allowed to pursue his investigations further. The boatmen assailed him vigorously, and he was knocked overboard. While in the water they attempted to beat him with boat hooks and oars, but he had the presence of mind to dive and get beyond the reach of their weapons. Then, treading water, he fired his revolver with the intention of shooting over their heads and frightening them. The bullet, however, lodged in the abdomen of one of the boatmen, who was taken ashore, but died in the hospital the same evening. One of his assailants was arrested by the Lukong, and he was brought before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the magistracy yesterday morning charged with attempting to murder the policeman. He was remanded till Friday afternoon.

A CHINESE GIRL'S SUICIDE.

VICTIM OF MELANCHOLIA.

Sitting at the Magistracy on October 4th with the following jury—Messrs. Isidore Silberman, S. D. Hickie, and Hans Schumer—Mr. F. A. Hazeland conducted an inquiry into the circumstances of the death of a Chinese girl named Lai Kam Yuk, an inmate of the Victoria Orphanage, who committed suicide by hanging herself with a rope from the banisters of the staircase on September 23rd.

The first witness, Miss George, matron of the Victoria Home and Orphanage, Kowloon, which was in connection with the Church Missionary Society, stated that Lai Kam Yuk was admitted in June two years ago, being received from the Registrar General. About 5.45 on the morning of the 23rd ult. she was called by a girl with her and Miss Hollis. Witness went to the girls' dormitory, and saw she was not in her bed. The girl directed her down the back stair case, where they found Kam Yuk hanging from the banister by a rope which was fastened round her neck. She was quite dead. They sent for the police at once. Deceased seemed to be of a very melancholy disposition and was jealous of any attention paid to any other girl. Otherwise she was a very good girl. The girl who was never strong, suffered a good deal lately from malarial fever, and had been attended by a doctor. She told one girl that she wanted to die.

Miss Laura Hollis, assistant matron, spoke to being called by the last witness, and rushing into the dormitory, found Kam Yuk hanging from the banister of the staircase by a rope.

Dr. W. B. Moore, medical officer in charge of the Kowloon mortuary, said, he examined the body of deceased, who was about 18 years of age. The cause of death was asphyxia.

His Worship thought the jury would have no difficulty in finding that the deceased took her life whilst of unsound mind.

The jury returned a verdict in these terms.

HONGKONG HOTEL SENSATION.

A VISITOR'S DELUSIONS.

A small "sensation" was caused at the Hongkong Hotel on the 3rd October when one of the gentleman visitors developed eccentricities which culminated in the firing of a revolver. It appears that the visitor entertained the idea that the boys had designs either on himself or his property, and it is said he pointed a revolver at everyone who showed his face at the door. Once he fired, fortunately without hitting anybody. By this time the police had been summoned by telephone, and a detective took the dangerous individual in charge. On being conveyed to the Police Station it was seen that he was in a very weak state and he was removed to the Hospital, where the doctor certified that he was suffering from "delusional mania." When his condition permits, he may be brought before a magistrate to answer a charge of recklessly using firearms.

THIEVES AT WORK.

As Mrs. White, proprietress of the Blue Buildings boarding house, was walking down Icehouse Street on the 3rd October, two natives approached her from behind when near the Masonic Hall, and snatched her handbag containing \$280 in money, accounts and other papers. They ran up the street and she gave chase, following them along Lower Albert Road, where they branched off, as far as the Government Offices. Here she lost sight of them and returned to the Central Police Station to report her loss. She was unable to identify either of the men, and the search instituted by the police has so far proved fruitless.

A Chinaman from Canton, who landed from the s.s. *Kwong Chau* about 4.30 a.m. yesterday morning, reported at the Central Police Station that he and his foki had been held up by three men in Des Vœux Road. One of the men, he said, seized him by the throat, while the others struck him, and the gang relieved him of his belongings. They also took the foki along with them, using many threats of what they would do if he refused to go quietly. The police have the matter in hand, but are inclined to be doubtful as to the truth of the story.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

At the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination held by the above named Institute on October 2nd and 5th the following candidates were recommended for certificates: Messrs. Robert Duncan, Charles Edward Frith, Donald John McKenzie, and Joseph Blake Winter.

The examiners were the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Dr. Francis Clark, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, Dr. W. W. Pearse, and Capt. Fitzwilliams.

Mr. A. Gibson was secretary, and Mr. A. Carter moderator.

JAPAN'S DOMESTIC BONDS.

FOREIGNERS' HOLDINGS.

Foreigners are reported to hold one quarter of the domestic bonds issued by the Japanese Government during the war. According to the *Jiji*, out of a total issue of 480,000,000 yen foreigners now own 120,000,000 yen, large purchases having been made since the great naval battle. Foreigners subscribed largely to the late issues, and with the subsequent purchases referred to now hold more than half of the fourth and fifth issues. The *Jiji* states that foreigners subscribed to or now hold 50,000,000 yen of the fourth issue and 70,000,000 yen of the fifth issue, or 60 per cent. of the two loans.

CHINESE PHYSICIANS NOT WITHOUT SKILL.

A German medical periodical, the *Süddeutscher Apotheker Zeitung*, recently published an interesting article on Chinese doctors and their methods. The Chinese physician, the writer remarks, is not always a quack, although he is generally so regarded in the Western world. There are many practitioners of medicine in China who are expert in the treatment of disease. They have become so by study of race-tradition, by close observation, and by practice, rather than by what we should call professional training. The article, as translated by the *Literary Digest*, proceeds as follows:—

"In China anybody can play the physician. No examination is necessary. As a general thing, doctors are men of education who have failed to pass the official government examination (a tremendously complicated affair; a test rather of memory than of knowledge). As educated men, in China, they are supposed to know all things, and be able to do anything and everything, even to healing the sick. If they are in earnest, they will study for a while under some aged and famous teacher, and spend a little while in diving deeper into knowledge, and if they wish to become pharmacists as well as physicians, which is generally the case, they learn how to make pills, etc. Many of these impromptu sons of Esculapius study but a few special diseases.

"Chinese medical literature embraces a host of books, many of which contain much matter several thousand years old (according to the Chinese chronology). According to these the heart is situated where we place the stomach, and the gall-bladder in the cerebellum: a man has 12 ribs, while a woman has 14 of them; a man's skull consists of eight, and a woman's of but six pieces. The skeleton contains 22 important and 56 unimportant parts.

"In early times there must have been in China (as there were in ancient Egypt) special medical schools, but these no longer exist. At the present time every village has its physician and apothecary shop. In every district there is a physician appointed by the Government, but without any salary attached. His duties are to determine the nature of wounds inflicted in breaches of the law, death therefrom, when it occurs, and its nature—a profitable calling to be sure? He must make reports, count the wounds and measure their dimensions, record them, and finally determine which, if any, caused death, or whether the subject died from natural causes. The party, who gives him the largest honorarium, will of course, fare in ordinary fracas, who gives him the best. Beside these district surgeons, there is in Peking a court that has jurisdiction over questions arising as to the qualifications of physicians, and the rules governing these are obeyed throughout the empire. The members of this court are physicians to the imperial court."

Chinese physicians of much repute, we are told, never visit on foot, but must be carried to the patient on a horse, or mule, in a carriage. At the patient's residence, the doctor first rests a while, and in the meantime is served with liquors and confectionery, and often with a formal meal. He usually collects no fee, but receives a percentage of the fees of the apothecary if he does not himself have an apothecary's shop. In all cases of cure, however, he is rewarded with rich presents, whose value depends on the rapidity and completeness of the relief. To quote further.

"Apothecary shops exist in every village of any size. Prescriptions always consist of several drugs, as many as twenty ingredients being frequently the case. They are put up in pill shape, or are given in their natural condition, and boiled together by relatives. This mess, usually of very bitter taste (and whose odour generally horrifies foreigners) is always administered hot, and usually in big cupsfuls.

"A Chinese medicine book, dating back to the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) contains no less than 28,739 receipts. Materials of the *Materia Medica Sinensis* consist of vegetables, minerals, and articles belonging to the animal kingdom, such, for instance as dragon's teeth centipedes, scorpions, Spanish flies, roaches, beetles, tadpoles, etc.

"Chinese doctors are, however, not content with medicines alone. They are adepts in massage, especially of the head and of the stomach and bowels. When light massage does not work a cure or give relief (in pains of the stomach, for instance), the doctor will kneel on the stomach and rub and knead with his knees and hands the painful part, and this he will keep up until the patient is relieved (or says he is). Another of his remedies is acupuncture or plunging a needle into various parts of the body—a treatment that is said to be very effectual in many complaints, and is highly regarded.

"One can easily conceive, after all this, that it is not pleasant for a foreigner to get sick in China, especially in the interior part of the country, where one must depend upon treatment by native physicians. 'No creditors at your doors and no doctors around the house is happiness,' says a Chinese proverb."

FOREIGNERS IN CHINESE DRESS.

In a leading article, the *Tientsin Times* refers to "the extreme undesirability of foreigners or naturalised Chinese posing as Chinese." Our contemporary says:—That Chinese dress is of great assistance to missionaries in the far interior besides being cheaper and more convenient, has been well proved, though there are missionaries in all parts of China who get on very well in their own national costume. But in adopting the dress for utilitarian purposes the line should, we think, be drawn at the queue, as not only is a peculiar significance attached to this head-dress which is absolutely at variance with the missionaries' life and policy, but it lends colour to the argument of possible mistakes in case of trouble. With short hair the missionary or the Chinese who is a foreign subject would be safe from identification with Chinese. In a few years time the queue will perhaps be disappearing, when some other distinction can be devised; but for the present it would serve, and British subjects whether missionary or otherwise have no right, to our thinking, to wear the badge of slavery and allegiance to the Chinese Throne when they are under the protection of, and in time of trouble turn to the protection of their own Government. We know that in the case of missionaries the queue is regarded simply as a detail of the whole dress, and is donned to avoid conspicuousness; but times are changing in China and so long as the Chinese officials remain as ignorant as they are at present it seems desirable to, as far as possible, limit the channels through which complications may arise by every means in our power. Foreigners of all nationalities, and conspicuously Japanese, are beginning to throng into the interior, all wearing the national dress, and all speaking the language with more or less fluency, yet all able at a moment's notice to repudiate their responsibility to any Chinese official and claim the protection of their own authorities. Many of these men are of unscrupulous character and are not in the interior for any worthy object, and it is no longer a matter of only the missionary traveller, so we should not be surprised to find the missionaries themselves viewing the situation somewhat in the light that we have done, and arriving at the decision that a distinctive mark of some kind is due both to the Chinese and to themselves.

JAPANESE LAND TAX IN "KWANTUNG."

Marshal Oyama, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Army in Manchuria, has issued the following order regarding the imposition of a land-tax in the province of Kwantung:—

"It is hereby notified that a land-tax will be imposed. In collecting the tax, the old usage in vogue in the province will be taken into account, and the collection of the tax will be commenced with the amount due for the present fiscal year. The procedure of collecting the tax will be determined by the Director of the Civil Administrative Bureau."

"Kwantung" here means the territory in Manchuria leased by Russia and now ceded to Japan.

HONGKONG CRICKET LEAGUE.

At the adjourned general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket League, held on the 3rd inst. in the Colonial Secretary's office, the secretary, Mr. W. Asger, reported that the following Clubs had entered for the 1905-6 Competition:—Craigengower, Hongkong C.C. 'A', Civil Service, Hongkong Police, Kowloon, Royal Engineers, Army Staff, and Royal Garrison Artillery.

The following alterations and additions to rules were made:

Rule 13. If a definite result be not arrived at, play shall continue till 6 p.m. in October, February and March, 5.45 p.m. in November and January and 5.30 p.m. in December. But if both umpires be agreed that the light is unfit for play, stumps shall be drawn at the time they shall so decide.

Rule 17. No player whose name is in the list drawn up by the Hongkong Cricket Club of players debarred in the H.K.C.C. team playing in the League is eligible to play for any other Club in the League.

Rule 18. The Committee shall have power from time to time to alter, add to and amend the Rules and Bye-laws of the League by giving notice to the Secretary who shall notify each member of the Committee of the same, provided that 14 clear days' notice of any proposed alteration, addition or amendment have been given to the Secretary and each member of the Committee. Any alteration, addition or amendment made shall be notified at once to the Committee representative of each League Club by the League Secretary.

Rule 19. The decision of the Committee shall in every case be final. Latest M.C.C. Rules to be observed in all cases.

SHANGHAI BREAD SUPPLY.

AN INTERESTING PHENOMENON.

The following letter to the *North China Daily News* explains itself:—

Sir,—On several occasions my appetite at breakfast has been considerably weakened by seeing a particularly repulsive-looking insect emerge from the loaf of bread after cutting the latter.

There can be no doubt whatever that this little beast had been baked with the bread, and that like the three individuals mentioned in the book of Daniel had come forth unhurt.

Beyond a passing interest which this may have for scientists, it does not very much concern the ordinary person, but I take it that most of us would prefer that our bread should not serve as host to such unappetising tenants, and I would suggest that our bakeries might very well be inspected as well as our dairies.

I cannot name the insect, but it evidently belongs to the family Blattidae, and is consequently a near relation to our ubiquitous friend the cockroach, usually but erroneously known as blackbeetle.

I am, etc,

GEO. BUTLER.

20th September.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on October 2nd the letting of Inland Lot No. 1,744 was put up for sale by public auction. There was only one bidder, Mr. P. Julian, to whom the lot was sold for \$1,300, \$20 more than the upset price.

Ships drawing 12 feet can now get up river to Tientsin with the tide. "If other cuttings are made," says the *China Times*, "further improvement may be looked for. The bar is the obstacle. The best tide experienced during August was 11 ft. 6 ins. As showing the enormous growth of the bar in recent years it may be mentioned that in August 1894 no less than 17 ft. 6 ins. was recorded, and the mean tide of that month was 12 ft. 6 ins. The work that has been done has greatly improved the river, as everyone now very fully recognises; but the greater the improvement the keener the desire for more. What is now required is that the bar be deepened by at least two feet, and that two more cuttings be made in the river channel."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Hankow, 27th September. Business reported since the 20th inst., is as under:—

	1905.	1904.
Settlements	436,532	583,841
S'ments to S'hai (Nat. a/c)	11,323	26,049
Stock	46,817	9,368

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 21st September, 1904:—

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	494,672	619,258

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	187,659	213,575

SILK.

CANTON, 23rd September, 1905.—5th Crop.—The number of bales available for Export will be about 9,000, against 8,000 bales for 1903 and 1904. The first samples of this crop appear to be of an intermediate quality between the 3rd and 4th crops. Long-reels.—Since the 9th inst., business has been rather dull, and we have an uneventful fortnight to report. The Market is distinctly weaker; Holders are meeting Buyers and seem ready to make some concessions. From sales made we quote: Fres. On Wo Hing 9/11, \$955, Kai Lun Cheong 9/11 at \$945, Kai Sun Cheong 11/13 at \$890, Wai King Wo 12/22 at \$785, Best 8ms. ordre 11/18-13/15-14/18 from \$775 down to \$765. Short-reels.—Have been very little dealt with during the fortnight; American buyers do not show much eagerness. Waste Silk.—Since our last, considerable activity has ruled for all sorts, though chiefly for the higher qualities; more than 3,000 bales have been booked in Canton at increasing prices. In the country a bulling feeling prevails stronger daily; principal Holders, anticipating advance, have withdrawn from the Market. Stock of silk in Canton: 800 Bales.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—The upward tendency continues, market being firm.

Shakloong, No. 1, White	\$8.70 to \$8.75 per
Do. " 2, White	7.75 to 7.80 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.85 to 6.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.55 to 6.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.45 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White	7.75 to 7.80 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.85 to 6.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.55 to 6.60 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.55 to 12.60 "
Shakloong	11.25 to 11.30 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th Oct.—Good harvests are expected, and the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.70 to \$2.80
" Round, good quality	3.80 to 3.85
" Long	3.80 to 3.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.15 to 3.20
" Garden, " No. 1	3.65 to 3.70
" White	3.95 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th October.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1080 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1170 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1200 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1260 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1070 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1140 to — do.
Patna New	\$1015 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$1047 to — do.
Benares New	\$995 to — do.
Benares Old	\$1005 to — do.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—Market easier by \$1, with no business. Stock about 2,500 bales.

Bombay	\$20.00 to 21.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon	20.00 to 24.00 "
and Dacca	20.00 to 24.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese	26.00 to 27.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00 "

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Oct. 6th, state that 14 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 61,600 tons of coal. Since Sept. 24th, 6 steamers have arrived with a total of 21,100 tons of coal. The market generally rules very quiet. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$15.00 \$16.00 ex-ship, nominal
Australian	\$10.00 \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 nominal
Milki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00 nominal
Moji Lump	\$1.050 to \$1.100 ex-ship steady
Akaike Lump	\$1.050 to \$1.100 steady

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 6th October, says:—Importers have experienced another quiet fortnight in our yarn market, dealers buying special chops and occasionally easy terms are offered; and at the close offers have been reduced by \$1 to \$2 per bale all round. Country orders are small, and are based too low to be of any use to dealers. The sales (5,811 bales) noted below were all made during the first days of the interval and comprise, as usual, a very large proportion of superior favourite spinnings of No. 10s, No. 16s being almost neglected. Heavy shipments are known to be on the way, and are now close at hand, and dealers continue to hold aloof, hoping to buy at lower prices when late contract goods come to hand. Receipts (22,732 bales) continue very heavy, and a further large addition has been made to stocks, and our estimate (53,000 bales) is gradually assuming heavier proportions. Bombay is reported steady.

Local Manufacture:—Quiet and nothing doing. Japanese Yarn:—No stock or transactions to report.

Raw Cotton:—Indian descriptions continue quiet and we hear of no business. New Crop Chinese Cotton is now arriving in bulk. The quality is up to the average and the yield normal. First importations met with ready buyers at \$29½, but subsequently, owing to large arrivals, rates have receded, and sales were effected at from \$27 to 28. Total settlements 700 bales at from \$29½ to \$26. Stock 450 bales China and 2,800 bales Indian. Quotations are Bengal \$21 to \$24 and China \$25 to \$27.

Exchange on India, after slight fluctuations, closes to-day at Rs. 150 for T/T and Rs. 145½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and Yokohama 95½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 23rd ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total settlements 4,934 bales at steady to firm prices, market closing firm with an estimated stock of 70,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market firm and prices unaltered with a fairly good enquiry. Total sales 2,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 24 to 101½ for No. 16s and Tls. 101 to 103½ for No. 20s.

Local:—In strong enquiry, and forward contracts to the extent of 25,000 bales are entered into on the basis of Tls. 86 to 17 for No. 10s, Tls. 88 to 90 for No. 12s, Tls. 90 to 92 for No. 14s, and Tls. 93 to 94 for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 28th September, 1905, states:—Our last circular was issued on 21st instant and during the interval the import market has been very quiet as far as business from first hands in spot cargo is concerned. There has, however, been a considerable movement in American goods among native holders, and we do not think we are at all wide of the mark when we estimate the goods dealt in at over 150,000 pieces. The demand as usual emanates from the Northern markets, and we believe the bulk of the goods have been bought by the Newchwang merchants. Besides this we hear that quite a large business has been done with New York for shipment during March to June next year, and we are told the goods that have received most attention are three-yard sheetings. Of course it is difficult to estimate what quantities have been dealt in, but we are informed by those in a position to know that fully twenty thousand bales have been sold. It would appear that no decline in prices is anticipated in New York to judge by the quotations for cotton, for whereas the price for October delivery is 10.69 cents, that for January delivery is as high as 10.69 cents, while telegrams of yesterday advise the market as strong owing to the increasing demand from China. Local clearances have been good both of sound and damaged cargo. Advice from Chefoo report a good market and we are told that a large portion of the damages caused by the recent typhoon have found a favourable market there. The River Ports are very quiet, Hankow parti-

cularly so, and beyond the purchase of some No. 20s Indian Yarn we have not heard of any business. Ningpo, as usual, is supplying her requirements from the usual weekly auctions. Latest telegrams from Manchester report the market firmer, although little fresh business is reported, while Liverpool is quiet but firm, Mid-Orleans being quoted at 5.28d. and Egyptian at 7½d. The Indian Yarn market has been fairly active and sales of 3,330 bales have been made, Newchwang again taking more than half that quantity. Stocks have been increased by the arrival of 3,922 bales by the s.s. Chusan.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 18 to 24	...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24	...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32	...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42	...	180.00 to 190.00

COTTON PRICE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	...	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	...	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	...	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	...	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	...	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	...	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	...	3.80 to 5.40
Fine	...	6.10 to 8.00
Book-folds	...	5.30 to 8.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	...	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.)	Ord'y	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 ")	"	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 ")	Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 ")	"	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	...	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ "	...	5.10 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—		
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	...	1.80 to 3.85

per yard	
Brocades—Dyed	0.12½ to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22½ to 0.28

per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.60 to 1.50
per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.65 to 2.50
German	0.65 to 0.90
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.50 to 2.50
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted	7.95 to 9.40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, Sept. 27th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds	30.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	17.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	(nom.)
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	7.80
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	(nom.)
Jute	4.75
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	9.20
and/or Macheng	8.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	(nom.)
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	10.50
Animal Tallow	17.50
Gallnuts, Usual shape	18.50
Do. Plum do.	(nom.)
Tobacco, Tingchow	(nom.)
Do. Wongkong	100.00
Black Bristles	(nom.)
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	3.75
Turmeric	8.90
Sesamum Seed	(nom.)
Sesamum Seed Oil	(nom.)
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.40
Wood Oil	(nom.)
Tea Oil	(nom.)

Per steamer Antenor, for London, Amsterdam and Antwerp, sailed on 26th September. For Port Said:—85 cases firecrackers. For Alexandria:—250 cases cassia. For Constantinople:—87 rolls matting. For Havre or Hamburg:—100 bales canes, 20 cases bristles. For London:—195 half-chests tea, 2,841 boxes tea, 513 cases pepper

ves, 1,881 cases preserves, 800 boxes cassia, 288 bales cane, 75 cases shells, 6 cases essential oil, 29 cases chinaware, 38 cases effects and sundries, 100 cases soy, 8 cases bristles, 100 bales feathers, 100 bales mats. For London or Glasgow:—250 cases preserves, 652 cases preserves. For London or Antwerp:—105 cases bristles. For London or Liverpool:—100 cases preserves. For Liverpool:—58 cases preserves. For Dundee:—50 cases preserves. For Glasgow:—250 cases preserves, 10 cases soy. For London or Continent:—384 packages merchandise, 20 rolls matting, 150 cases cassia, 85 packages ginger. For Amsterdam:—160 rolls matting.

Per Mr. M. steamer *Polynesian*, sailed on 3rd October. For Marseilles:—165 bales raw silk, 320 bales waste silk, 100 cases cassia, 1 case silk piece goods, 35 packages human hair, 2 packages feathers, 100 packages tea, 25 cases hats, 10 cases ylang ylang oil, 80 packages sundries. For Lyons:—133 bales raw silk. For St. Charmond:—11 bales raw silk. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th October, 1905.—Business is practically at a standstill, the market having apparently arrived at a "marking time" stage with operators, and even investors setting on the fence awaiting the first decisive sign of that anticipated improvement in things generally which has been almost universally expected after the late declaration of peace, but which somehow seems to hang fire.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, following an advance of £3 on the London market, have improved to \$915 with small sales at that, and at \$920 for the 30th inst. In the early part of the week a few small lots changed hands at \$902½ and \$905 and later at \$910. The market closes steady at \$915. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$780, but no further shares appear to be available at that rate, and we have no business to report. A few shares, however, are on offer at \$785. China Traders, in the early part of the week, were further negotiated at \$79, and later at \$80, while at time of writing it is probable that \$81 would be paid if any shares were forthcoming. Cantons have been in request at \$340, but holders refuse to part at that rate. North Chinas and Yangtzes remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Small unimportant sales of Hongkongs have taken place at \$340, but sellers rule the market at time of closing. Chinas could be placed in small lots at \$88.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands in small lots at \$27, sellers at that rate ruling the market at time of closing. Indos have ruled decidedly weaker with sellers during the week at \$94 and no sales. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue out of favour and unaccountably weak at \$229, the earnings for August are reported as being very good, but from all accounts September does not promise so well. A slack month or two, however, seems to be scarcely sufficient to account for the temporary weakness, which most likely is due to the tightness of money, and the slackness of the market generally. Luzons have found buyers at \$15½, and later at \$15, closing steady at the latter rate.

MINING.—Raub has declined slightly to \$3½ with small sales. Nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued to rule weak, and after small sales at \$185 close with sellers at that rate. Kowloon Wharves have been in steady demand at \$104, but no shares are forthcoming to supply the demand. Farnhams have ruled between Tls. 145 and Tls. 150 in Shanghai and close at Tls. 145 with sellers. New Amoy Docks have changed hands at \$17.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have declined to \$126 with sellers and no sales to report. West Points are obtainable in small lots at \$55 and Kowloon Lands have been placed at \$147. Humphreys have been enquired for at \$12½, but holders do not seem inclined to part at that rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have been negotiated at \$14½ and \$14. Ewos have improved in Shanghai to Tls. 55. We have no other changes or business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dairy Farm, New Fenwicks, United Asbestos and A. S. Watsons have changed hands at quotations. Powells have improved to \$11½ ex div., and Green Islands to \$28½, the latter after small sales at \$27½ and \$28.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

QUOTATIONS.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$915
		London £94.
National B. of China	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11.75, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 55, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sales & sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 44
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 59
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250, buyers
Dairy Farm	86	\$17½, sales & buy.
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 145
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$104, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$185, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17, sales
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 187½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$27
		\$25 sales
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$28½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$9½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$147
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$237½, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$14, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$340, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$88, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$80, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 82, buyers
Union	\$100	\$780, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$172½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$126, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, sales & buy.
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub	18/10	\$3½, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$7, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$229, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$82
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$27, sales & sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$21½, sellers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$28. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$33, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$25, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8
Do. New	\$3	\$7½
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
		\$11½, sales & sellers ex div.
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$7, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$14½, sales & sell.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$4, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, sales
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 28th September, 1905, states:—Business has not been on a very large scale since our last issue, but we have to chronicle a slight improvement in Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves and Langkats. Rates for other stocks have been fairly well maintained. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 28½. Banks H. & S. Bank. No business reported. The Hongkong quotation is \$900 buyers. London £90. 15s. Od. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. There has been a fair amount of business at slightly better rates, but the market weakened yesterday on orders from Hongkong to sell at \$95. Our rate at closing is

Tls. 70 for September, and Tls. 72 for December will sellers prevailing. Shanghai Tugs. There are shares on the market in small quantities at Tls. 60 for Ordinary, and Tls. 47½ for Preference. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. There is but little actual change in rates to report since our last, shares having changed hands at Tls. 142½ and 143½ for the Settlement, and closing at the latter figure. For forward delivery slightly better prices can be obtained than prevailed last week, viz. Tls. 148½ for December, and Tls. 153½ for March. The market closes firm. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have experienced a slight rise during the week. A considerable number of shares were taken off the market at Tls. 185 and 190 for December, and enquiries for more shares carried the cash rate to Tls. 100 and 195 for December. At the close cash shares are slightly weaker at Tls. 187½ cash, and 195 for December. Sugars.—The Hongkong quotation is \$230 buyers. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Buyers at Tls. 7½. Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co. Shares have been placed at \$9½, closing with sellers. Lands.—Shanghai Lands remain at Tls. 122. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons, have buyers at Tls. 52½. Shanghai Pulp have changed hands at Tls. 150 cash. Langkats. A persistent demand for shares has carried the cash rate from Tls. 225 to 240 and we close with buyers at this figure. For forward delivery shares could have been had at Tls. 235 in the beginning of the week, gradually improving as the cash rate advanced to Tls. 250, at which price at the close shares are wanted. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz. Shares are offering at \$26. Weeks & Co., have buyers at \$20. Astor House have been dealt in at \$28½, and there are sellers now at this price. Hotel des Colonies were placed at Tls. 17½ during the week, and there are buyers at this figure. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Horse Bazaars. Sellers at Tls. 80. Telephones. Remain at Tls. 58½. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal 6 per cent. debentures have been placed at Tls. 99, closing with buyers. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves 6 per cent. debentures changed hands at Tls. 96½ and 97.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to Hongkong, small parcels offering at 10 cents; to Philippines, 27 cents last; to Java and Japan, no demand. North Coast Java to this, 25 cents for wet and 22 cents per picul for dry sugar. Newchwang to Canton, 24½ to 25 cents per picul. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$1 40; to Singapore, \$1.50 nominal. Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton last. Time Characters. The British steamer *Glengary* has been closed for 12 months at about £1,200 per month for Hongkong/South America trade; the German steamer *Hermann Messell* for Newchwang/Canton trade. The following are the settlements:—*Hermann Messell*—German steamer, 1,035 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul. A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, *Newchwang* to Canton, 24½ cents per picul. *Benlawers*—British steamer, 2,521 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.35 per ton. *Tjipanas*—Dutch steamer, 2,475 tons, Moji to Amoyport (cargo), \$2.25 per ton. *Quinta*—German steamer, 987 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, \$1,000 per month. *Loyal*—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton. *Heimdal*—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 cents per picul. *Hermann Messell*—German steamer, 1,035 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$5,600 per month. *Taiyu*—German steamer, 1,065 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,350 per month.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland)—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To Shanghai—Tea and General Cargo, Tals 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight market Report, dated Shanghai 28th September, 1905, states:—Our Homeward Freight Market remains without change, with a fair amount of cargo going forward. Coastwise.—This trade is in the same condition as before the signing of Peace, with nothing doing. A few coal fixtures are all that we have to report, with rates very low.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 6th October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	24½
Credits 4 months' sight	249
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	199
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
ON MANILA.—On demand	
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
Sovereigns, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10 20
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$53.70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28½

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

- 1, Atlantis, Amr. str., from Manila.
 - 1, Australian, British str., from Kobe.
 - 1, Germania, German str., from Kebao.
 - 1, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 - 1, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Nankin.
 - 1, Hellas, German str., from Chinkiang.
 - 1, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
 - 1, Kusa-g, British str., from Singapore.
 - 1, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 - 1, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 - 1, Lucia Vittoria, Ital. str., from K'chauwan.
 - 1, Otterpool, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 - 1, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 1, Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.
 - 2, Charterhouse, British str., from Sourabaya.
 - 2, Haitan, French str., from Hoihow.
 - 2, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 - 2, Loyal, German str., from Tourane.
 - 2, Nithsdale, British str., from Rangoon.
 - 2, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
 - 2, Polynesian, French str., from Yokohama.
 - 2, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 - 2, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 2, Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
 - 2, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 - 3, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
 - 3, Ghazee, British str., from Singapore.
 - 3, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 - 3, Kampot, French str., from Saigon.
 - 3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 - 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 - 3, Suisang, British str., from Java.
 - 3, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 4, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 - 4, Elger, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 - 4, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Coast Ports.
 - 4, Hellas, German str., from Canton.
 - 4, Hinsang, British str., from Java.
 - 4, Ithaka, German str., from Swatow.
 - 4, Kansu, British str., from Swatow.
 - 4, Kintuck, British str., from Liverpool.
 - 4, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Yokohama.
 - 4, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 - 5, Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 - 5, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 5, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
 - 5, Elita Nossack, German str., from Swatow.
 - 5, Evandale, British str., from Rangoon.
 - 5, Shaohsing, British str., from Canton.
 - 5, Tolv, Norwegian str., from Labuan.
 - 5, Victoria, Chinese str., from Newchwang.
 - 5, Weihora, British str., from Straits.
 - 5, er—
- DEPARTURES.
- Octob Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
- 1, Baralong, British str., for London.
 - 1, Chihli, British str., for Tientsin.
 - 1, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.

- 1, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Lowther Castle, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 1, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 1, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
- 1, Seneca, British str., for New York.
- 2, Germania, German str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Hellas, German str., for Canton.
- 2, Kaiping, British str., for Yokohama.
- 2, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
- 2, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
- 2, Tydeus, British str., for Seattle.
- 2, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Arratoon Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
- 3, Cranley, British str., for Taku.
- 3, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 3, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
- 3, Mercedos, British trspt., for Weihaiwei.
- 3, Nithsdale, British str., for Saigon.
- 3, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Otterpool, British str., for Sourabaya.
- 3, Polynesian, French str., for Europe.
- 3, Shaohsing, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 3, Tientsin, British str., for Bombay.
- 4, Australian, British str., for Australia.
- 4, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
- 4, Guichen, French cruiser, for Saigon.
- 4, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4, M. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Segovia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 5, Hermann Menzell, Ger. str., for Chefoo.
- 5, Iphigenia, British cruiser, for home.
- 5, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Katharine Park, British str., for Chefoo.
- 5, Kintuck, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Promise, Norwegian str., for Anping.
- 5, Taishan, British str., for Kobe.

PASSENGER LIST

ARRIVED.

Per *Zieten*, for Shanghai, Messrs. H. C. Pollock, Korzumi, H. P. Roach, Konigsberg, Mr. and Mrs. Parrett; for Nagasaki, Misses S. Ohisa and Kuwahara, Messrs. Kormata, Sonada, Smamura and Yamamuchi; for Kobe, Messrs. S. Shigenaga, Dankes, Izard, Ikeyama and Takemoto; for Yokohama, Messrs. L. F. Tegner, F. da Silva, Almeida and Mr. V. Teus and family.

Per *Cranley*, from Dunkerque (France), Dr. Leadbeater.

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Per *Choysang*, from Shanghai, Ma. and Mrs. Fitzgerald and Members of Circus Troupe.

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